

Safe Driving is Everyone's Business. Do Your Part.

THE ROADWAY

The roadway is generally recognized as the second most common factor causing crashes. Roadway design, roadside hazards and roadway conditions are all contributing factors to these events. Driving safely on our roadways can be a demanding task requiring a motorist's constant attention. Knowing the route and being well informed about weather and road conditions as well as unusual traffic activity ahead: crashes, road closures, work zones, or heavier than usual congestion helps drivers to head off traffic nightmares before they materialize.

Do Your Part: Drive Carefully and Share the Road with Others

🚗 **Obtain information on the latest tie-ups, traffic jams, roadway conditions and visibility before you get behind the wheel.** Then you can plan your route to avoid some delays or allow yourself extra drive time. Whether it's drive time radio, TV or the Internet, keep yourself informed to make educated decisions about travel times, routes, etc. The National Traffic and Road Closure Information web site at <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/trafficinfo/index.htm> has links to web sites with information on construction, road, weather and travel conditions.

🚗 **Plan your route ahead of time.** Getting lost is embarrassing, frustrating and exasperating, but knowing where you're going ahead of time can reduce your stress and ensure that you arrive safely and on time. Keep a current map with you or use an Internet mapping site, they're fast and easy, but not always accurate. Best advice: Print out maps from at least 2 sites and compare them.

🚗 **Being fully prepared also includes knowing the meaning of and obeying road signs, signals and pavement markings.** Because we have to be more generous these days in sharing space with our fellow travelers, knowing the rules of the road and learning to read the language of the road signs, signals and markings is more important than ever before.

🚗 **Be aware of locations where bottlenecks will develop:** the narrowing of a roadway into fewer lanes, at tollbooths, entrance and exit ramps, and at bridge rails or medians with close side clearances. Particularly troublesome are "weaving areas" where vehicles must cross several lanes to get to and from entry and exit points.

🚗 **Be aware of the roadway hazards that create additional stress for drivers who are already dealing with a difficult driving situation.** Trees, utility poles close to the road, sharp curves, work zones, and narrow lanes with no shoulders are hazards that vehicles can crash into if they leave the roadway. Take extra care when driving through these areas or avoid them altogether.

Did you know that over the past 30 years in the US:

- Population increased 30%
- Number of licensed vehicles increased 87%
- Vehicle miles traveled increased 130%
- New highway capacity increased only 5%

SOURCE: American Road & Transportation Builders Association

Did you know that in 2001:

- Over 42,500 miles of highways were congested
- Over 6,000 of these miles were in rural areas
- Rural roads handled 40% of all travel
- 60% of fatalities occurred on rural roads

SOURCE: Federal Highway Administration

For more information on safe driving practices, contact NETS National or your State NETS Coordinator at 1-888-221-0045 or visit: www.NetsNational.org

